

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 05268 091640 Z

47

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

CCO-00 INRE-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 OPR-02 OC-06

SY-10 M-03 A-01 PER-05 EB-11 COME-00 INT-08 AID-20

RSR-01 /171 W

----- 016010

O 091545 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2030

DIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

USMISSION UN NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 5268

DEPT ALSO FOR CAIRO

SITREP 9

EO 11652: XGDS

TAGS: PINS LE

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY SITREP 9

1. AS OF 1400 Z SITUATION IN BEIRUT AREA IS MUCH QUIETER THAN IT HAS BEEN SINCE MAY 7 ALTHOUGH THERE ARE STILL OCCASIONAL EXCHANGES OF FIRE. EXCHANGES WERE FREQUENT DURING MIDDAY BUT HAVE TAILED OFF IN LATER AFTERNOON. SITUATION IN SOUTH BEKAA AND ARKUB
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REPORTED IMPROVED BY G-2 WITH ARMY AND AIR FORCE HAVING INFLECTED LOSSES ON FEDAYEEN. ARAFAT HAS BEEN TAKING POSITION IN STRONG SUPPORT OF CEASE FIRE BUT CLAIMS TO GOL AND PRESS AND POLITICIANS THAT ACTION IN BEKAA IN SAIQA AND HE CAN DO NOTHING. G-2 REPORTS THAT SIDON AND TYRE ALSO FAIRLY CALM AFTER YESTERDAYS TROUBLES. TRIPOLI REMAINS CALM.

2. MORALE OF ARMY AND ITS UNITY AND EAGERNESS TO COMPLETE JOB OF CONTROLLING FEDAYEEN REMAINS HIGH DESPITE (OR PERHAPS BECAUSE OF) HEAVY CASUALTIES SUFFERED NIGHT OF MAY 8. ARMY HAS REPORTEDLY ANNOUNCED THAT SINCE LASTEST CEASE FIRE WENT INTO EFFECT AT 1820 Z MAY 8 IT HAS LOST 12 KIA IN SOUTH BEKAA- ARKUB AND MANY WOUNDED IN ADDITION TO LOSSES SUFFERED AT TYRE.

3. ON INTERNAL POLITICAL FRONT, THERE WERE EFFORTS BY GOL AND OTHERS THROUGHOUT DAY TO REDUCE TENSIONS AND MOVE BACK TOWARD NATIONAL UNITY. DEPUTIES AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS MET AND ISSUED BLAND STATEMENTS OF GENERAL SUPPORT FOR GOL, FOR LEBANESE SOVEREIGNTY AND NATIONAL UNITY, INCLUDING AGREEMENT BETWEEN FEDAYEEN AND GOL.

4. IPC AND MEDRECO REFINERIES REPORT THEY HAVE REDUCED OPERATIONS OWING TO EFFECT CURFEW (LIFTED AGAIN FOR TWO HOURS THIS AFTERNOON) AND RECENT FIGHTING HAVE HAD ON NORMAL DISTRIBUTION OF THEIR PRODUCTS. FOUR BANKS DAMAGED IN EARLY MORNING EXPLOSIONS REPORTED PARA 1 SITREP 8 INCLUDED BRANCH OFFICES OF CONTINENTAL DEVELOPMENT BANK AND TWO LEBANESE BANKS IN CITY S EASTERN SUBURB, PLUS BRITISH BANK OF ME BRANCH NEAR PHOENICIA HOTEL. NO CASUALTIES REPORTED AND DAMAGE APPARENTLY LIMITED LARGELY TO BROKEN GLASS. WE GATHER BANKS WERE SIMPLY RANDOM TARGETS OF GENERAL URBAN DISRUPTION AND POT- BOILING CAMPAIGN CARRIED OUT BY FEDAYEEN OR THEIR LEFTIST SYMPATHIZERS.

5. WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER REPORT LATER THIS EVENING.

6. EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND DEPENDENTS SAFE AS ARE MEMBERS AMERICAN COMMUNITY.

7. AIRPORT STILL CLOSED.
HOUGHTON

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NOTE BY OCT: BEIRUT 5268 NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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NMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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